11th March 1955]

a well-known fact that the Non-Gazetted Officers are very poor and are unable to meet their expenses as they receive a low salary from the Government. In view of these facts and in view of the hardships in which they find themselves placed, will the Government see that these mosquito-nets are supplied to them free? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, I am afraid the financial commitment will be a little bit large. Therefore we have to consider this question with reference to the financial resources available."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the Government are now granting loans free of interest for the purchase of mosquito-nets and some other concessions also in areas which are declared as unhealthy localities. Are the Government aware that a special memorandum has been submitted to the Hon. the Minister for Finance that the teachers in Wynaad and other unhealthy areas are to be given some special allowance as in the case of Non-Gazetted Officers. Have the Government taken up full responsibility for paying the teachers in full?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is no question of our taking responsibility for paying the teachers in full. We make some grant towards the pay of teachers. That is all. Therefore, the question of providing further allowances in unhealthy localities by the Government will not arise."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" On a point of clarification, I wish to say that as far as Malabar is concerned, I am grateful that the Government have taken up responsibility in the matter of payment to the teachers? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, it is only a method of payment of grant. That does not mean that the Government have taken over full responsibility in the matter."

Framing of Service Rules for workers of the Transport Department

* 1267 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state why the Transport Department is kept as a temporary department?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government have issued a declaration that the conditions of service of holders of posts created in connexion with the nationalization of passenger bus service are matters not suitable for regulation by rule. Such a declaration was issued because it was the intention of the Government at the time that the administration of the department should vest in a Road Transport Corporation which should be free to have its own rules and regulations. The Government have since decided that no Corporation need be formed for the Government Bus Service, Madras City and much less for the whole State. It has also been decided that Service Rules should be framed for all the posts in the Transport Department. The framing of service

[11th March 1955

rules is under the consideration of the Government. As soon as such rules are finalised, the question of making the department permanent will be taken up.''

Panchayat Board elections

9-10 a.m. * 1268 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any petitions were received by the Government to enquire into the irregularities committed by the election officers while conducting panchayat board elections; and

(*b*) if so, the number of such petitions and the action taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—'' (*a*) Yes, Sir.

'' (*b*) Two hundred and fifteen petitions were received by the Government since November 1952 when elections to panchayats had started. As the Government cannot interfere in election disputes, the petitioners were asked to seek redress from election courts, as provided under the rules relating to the decision of election disputes issued under section 112 (2) (i) of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Are the Government aware of the fact that election disputes arise on account of the defective rules that the Government have framed like show of hands for election to minor panchayat and that the election officer does not keep himself above suspicion with the result that the parties concerned are not in a position to go to higher authorities for getting their grievances redressed? Will the Government, therefore, revise the rules so as to abolish the system of election by show of hands to minor panchayats? ''

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—'' Yes, Sir. The sugestion will be examined.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' Is it a fact that in some cases it is owing to the intervention of the Government that election disputes arise? To cite an example, in respect of the Ezom amsam, the Government stopped the election at the eleventh hour, and it is on account of the passing of such an order, election disputes arose in that area.''

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—'' The Government cannot interfere in election disputes. But at times, party feelings are roused in villages and the Government have to order a stay of elections in those villages.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' The method adopted by officers in conducting elections by show of hands is this. If there are five seats vacant in a panchayat board and if there are seven candidates contesting, he records the number of votes polled against